

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE

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August 1, 1957

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL
ASSISTANT, INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

TO: R - Mr. Hugh S. Cumming, Jr.

SUBJECT: Science Attache Program.

I attach a copy of the "Statement of Proposed Science Activities in the State Department", as approved by the Under Secretary.

I should be grateful if you would pass it on to the appropriate official in CIA.


J. C. Satterthwaite

Attachment:

As stated above.

STATEMENT OF PROPOSED SCIENCE
ACTIVITIES IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT

The following statement of administrative arrangements for science activities in the Department of State discusses (1) the functions of the Science Adviser, (2) the responsibilities of the science attache, (3) supervision and direction, (4) relations with other agencies, and (5) overseas posts.

The Science Adviser

The Science Adviser shall:

1. Obtain the advice and assistance of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Science Foundation and other interested agencies in the exercise of the functions hereinafter enumerated.
2. Advise and assist Department of State officials on the scientific aspects of foreign policy formulation and execution.
3. Develop policies and programs in consultation with the regional bureaus and other parts of the State Department to promote a maximum fulfillment of reporting and other responsibilities with respect to science in our overseas posts.
4. Represent the Department of State vis-a-vis other Government agencies on scientific matters of interest to the State Department or with regard to requirements on the Foreign Service for scientific reporting or other services.
5. Advise and give policy guidance to the regional bureaus on the activities of science attaches.
6. Advise the Deputy Under Secretary for Administration, the Assistant Secretary - Controller, and administrative staff subordinate to them on administrative policies and actions with respect to the establishment, functioning, and filling of science attache positions.

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Science Attaches

The science attache shall be accredited to a particular country but shall also cover other countries in his area in accordance with instructions received from the Department. He shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Advise and assist the Ambassador and personnel of the U. S. Mission on scientific matters or the scientific aspects of other matters being handled by the Mission.
2. Promote the exchange of scientific information and cooperative rapport between scientists of the United States and those of the foreign country.
3. Report on significant trends and developments in the field of science, with evaluations of political and economic implications.
4. Obtain upon request scientific reports or other specific scientific information, and upon their own initiative collect and transmit scientific information deemed to be of value to U. S. Government agencies, U. S. industry, and the U. S. scientific community generally.
5. Advise and counsel other Foreign Service officers in the various U. S. Missions within the area in the performance of the above functions.

It is not believed desirable to identify the science attache as "representing U. S. science abroad." Assertion of this kind of extremely broad function would be an unreal distortion of the many ways in which this larger activity is really performed and would invite adverse comment on the need for the position.

It would be inadvisable and beyond our budgetary means to blanket the various countries of the world with science attaches. The functions of the science attache are therefore phrased in terms of a regional coverage and the Department will issue appropriate instructions to the end that his efforts will be reinforced by other Foreign Service personnel in the area.

At some point it will be necessary to relate the atoms-for-peace program and the science attache program. This is a complex problem. Action on the science attache program should not be delayed further on this account.

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Supervision and Direction

The Department of State will finance all its science activities. It will assume responsibility for the substantive and administrative direction of these activities. It will attempt to meet the needs of other agencies and will look to these other agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, and to the National Academy of Sciences for advice and assistance in program planning and in recruiting suitable people. This is consistent with the general character and functioning of the Foreign Service and with the President's policy on overseas arrangements for the Executive branch.

Relations with Other Agencies

The Department of State would rely mainly on the National Academy of Sciences and the National Science Foundation for advice and assistance. The Foundation will advise on those aspects of the program relating to the Federal government's interest in basic science. The Department will consult with individual agencies of the Government with respect to their specific requirements.

Overseas Posts

In fiscal year 1958, science attaches will be stationed in Stockholm, Paris, Bonn, Tokyo and New Delhi. This is consistent with the proposal of September 12, 1956, from the National Science Foundation except that no provision is made for London and Moscow.

July 16, 1957